

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, GW

SUBJ: GENSCHER AND BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP ON CO-DETERMINATION
AND COALITIONS

1. SUMMARY.

FOREIGN MINISTER AND NATIONAL FDP CHAIRMAN GENSCHER CALLED FOR CHANGES IN CO-DETERMINATION (MITBESTIMMUNG) PROPOSAL OF SPD/FDP GOVERNMENT COALITION IN JANUARY 6 KEYNOTE SPEECH AT ANNUAL BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP CONVENTION. SAID AMENDMENTS OF COALITION S DRAFT LAW POSSIBLE ONLY IF BOTH PARTIES AGREED. ALSO WARNED AGAINST CONSTANT DISCUSSION COALITION QUESTIONS SAYING FDP WOULD DECIDE POSSIBILITIES ONLY WHEN NECESSARY I.E. IMMEDIATELY BEFORE SPECIFIC LAND ELECTIONS. FEDERAL PATTERN NOT NECESSARY FOR ALL LAENDER. STRESSED IMPORTANCE 1975 LANDTAG ELECTIONS FOR FDP, CALLED FOR VIGOROUS CAMPAIGNS IN ALL LAENDER. DELEGATES REELECTED PARTY S GENERAL SECRETARY MARTIN BANGEMANN AS

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LAND CHAIRMAN DESPITE SOME CRITICISM OF HIS ALLEGEDLY

EXCESSIVE INVOLVEMENT IN BONN.
END SUMMARY.

2. ANNUAL BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP CONVENTION ADOPTED
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AMENDMENT NATIONAL SPD/FDP MIT-
BESTIMMUNG COMPROMISE BY DEMANDING DIRECT ELECTION
(URWAHL) OF WORKER REPRESENTATIVES TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(AUFSICHTSRAT). BANGEMANN BELIEVED SUCH AGREEMENT POSSIBLE
WITH SPD. RESOLUTION ALSO ASKED THAT IT BE MADE CLEAR THAT IT
WAS NOT FDP WHICH BLOCKED DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIZATION OF
ECONOMY IF COMPROMISE NOT REACHED. CONVENTION SHARPLY DIVIDED
ON MITBESTIMMUNG ISSUE. RESOLUTION PASSED BY SINGLE
VOTE WHICH CAST BY BANGEMANN.

3. DESPITE CONVENTION RESOLUTION GENSCHER IN MAJOR ADDRESS AT
FINALE ADOPTED MILDER STANCE, NOTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN
COALITION PARTNERS THAT AMENDMENTS TO PRESENT COMPROMISE
REQUIRED CONSENT OF BOTH, HE PROMISED REEXAMINATION OF DIRECT
ELECTION QUESTION AND ASKED TRADE UNIONS RECONSIDER THEIR
ATTITUDE ON THIS POINT. FDP WANTED MORE INDIVIDUAL RIGHT,
NOT MORE RIGHTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE TOO MUCH
POWER ANYHOW.

4. GENSCHER ALSO WARNED AGAINST CONSTANT DISCUSSION COALITION
QUESTIONS. SAID COALITION IS NECESSARY MEANS TO ACHIEVE
POLITICAL AIMS IN GOVERNMENT. FDP COULD COALESCE WITH MORE
THAN ONE PARTY AND WOULD LOSE ITS INDEPENDENCE IF IT DOGMATICALLY
REJECTED SUCH A TACTIC. FDP MUST MAINTAIN FREEDOM TO DECIDE
COALITION QUESTION IN CONTEXT OF SPECIFIC ELECTION CONCERNED.
MOREOVER, DECISION SHOULD BE MADE ONLY FOR SINGLE LEGIS-
LATIVE PERIOD. COALITION DECISION IN LAENDER MUST BE BASED
ON LAND POLITICAL REASONS AND NOT BE PREJUDICED BY DECISION
REACHED AT FEDERAL LEVEL. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IF AN ELECTION
CAMPAIGN WERE WAGED IN A LAND BY FDP AS OPPOSITION PARTY.
HOWEVER, COALESCING IN A LAND ONLY TO SHOW FDP STILL ABLE TO
LINK UP WITH CDU IS NOT CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION
FOR SUCH A TACTIC.

5. CONVENTION REELECTED FDP GENERAL SECRETARY DR. MARTIN
BANGEMANN AS LAND CHAIRMAN WITH 323 OUT OF 387 VOTES.
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BUNDESTAG DEPUTY GEORG GALLUS(354 OUT OF 392 VOTES),
KLAUS ROESCH (273 OUT OF 391) CONFIRMED AS DEPUTIES.
ENDERLEIN, UNDER CLOUD FOR RECENT CRITICISM OF BANGEMANN
FOR NEGLECTING LAND POLITICS, REELECTED WITH HELP YOUNG DEMOCRATES.

6. COMMENT.
BOTH GENSCHER AND BANGEMANN TOOK CONSIDERABLE PAINS TO

SHOW INDEPENDENCE OF FDP AND NOT TO LINK PARTY IRREVOCABLY WITH
FORTUNES OF NATIONAL FDP. THEY ALSO LEFT NO DOUBT THAT
1975 IS DECISIVE YEAR FOR THEIR PARTY AFTER ITS POOR SHOWING
IN 1974 LANDTAG ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG
PARTY DID NOT GET OFF TO AUSPICIOUS START, SINCE LAND CON-
VENTION MOST POORLY ATTENDED IN RECENT YEARS. SMOOTH
SAILING FOR LAND FDP ALSO PROBLEMATIC IN VIEW OF ENDERLEIN'S
REELECTION CONTRARY TO BANGEMANN WISH AND PARTY DIFFERENCES ON
MITBESTIMMUNG. LATTER SUBJECT PROMISES BE CENTER OF CONTINUED
CONTROVERSY. END COMMENT. JENKINS

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